

THE CEDARS

AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROTECT OVER 4,000 ACRES OF GLOBALLY
SIGNIFICANT NATURAL RESOURCE LANDS



“No other serpentine site can match The Cedars for its importance to the study and conservation of the Californian serpentine flora.”

- Susan Harrison, Professor, Environmental Science & Policy, UC Davis Campus Director UC Natural Reserve System.

LOCATION:

North of Cazadero, Western Sonoma County

TRANSACTION TYPE:

Working with several different landowners to structure Fee and Conservation Easement transactions

**POTENTIAL
PARTNERS:**

Sonoma Land Trust, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, California State Coastal Conservancy, California Department of Fish & Game, California State Wildlife Conservation Board, Bureau of Land Management, California Native Plant Society



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PROJECT ATTRIBUTES



Calcium Carbonate Spring

Globally Significant Resource Property. Unique and extremely unusual botanical, geological and aquatic resources.

Significant, Rare and Endemic Botanical Species. Cedars manzanita; Cedars Globe Lily; Burgundy leafed stream orchid; Serpentine fleabane; Cedars creambush; Dorr's Place jewelflower; Hoffman's jewelflower; Bearded jewelflower; Sonoma County jewelflower; Serpentine reed grass; Jepson musk brush

Exceptional Scientific Value. Scientists from around the country, including researchers from NASA, Stanford, USC and UC Davis, are studying the geologic and microbial processes taking place here, and have noted the Cedars as one of the “**most unique geological and biological sites on the planet**”.

Distinctive and Pristine Habitat Types. Includes a rare mix of peridotite mantle rock, serpentine soils, mixed evergreen woodland, chaparral, talus barrens, riparian woodland and thickets, alluvial gravel bars, seepages and springs, ultra-basic seepages and springs, and carbonate formations.

Connectivity to Protected Lands. The projects are adjacent to and will expand approximately 1,500 acres of Federal lands managed by the United States Bureau of Land Management and designated as an Area of Critical Ecological Concern (“ACEC”) – the highest level of protection.

Water Quality - High Priority Riparian Areas and Watersheds:

- The headwaters of both Big Austin Creek and East Austin Creek, tributaries to the Russian River, are in The Cedars. Danfield, Grasshopper, Azalea and Cedar Creeks, draining into the Gualala River, also originate here, thus contributing to the overall water quality of many important aquatic habitats of Sonoma County. Steelhead trout have been found in the upper reaches of Azalea Creek, a tributary to East Austin Creek.

- The water quality from the numerous seeps, springs and creeks on at least one property within The Cedars region is so incredible and unusual that scientists from around the world come to observe and study the rare microbial processes taking place here. The spring waters have one of the highest pH (>11.5) of natural waters and contain abiotic hydrogen and methane as the peridotite slowly changes to serpentine.



Endemic Cedar's Globe lily;
Calochortus raichei

FLOWERS OF THE CEDARS

Rhododendron occidentale. Western azalea



Cypripedium californicum. California lady-slipper orchid

Endemic *Epipactis gigantea* f. *rubrifolia*.
purple-leaved form of the stream orchid



Claytonia gypsophiloides. Baby's breath spring beauty

EXPOSED PERIDOTITE ROCK



Exhibit 3: The Cedars Endemic Plants and Natural Resources

